

NPL Factsheets for Illinois:

KERR-MCGEE (KRESS CREEK/WEST BRANCH OF DUPAGE RIVER)

EPA ID# ILD980823991 - Last Update: February 2002

EPA REGION 5

DuPage County
West Chicago

Other Names:

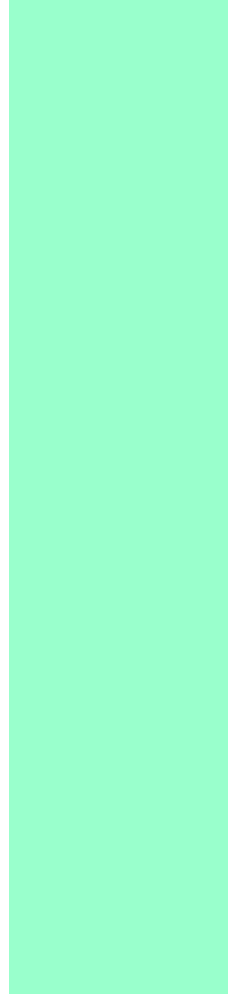
West Branch of DuPage River

14th Congressional District

Site Description

The Kerr-McGee Kress Creek/West Branch of DuPage River site is one of four National Priorities List (NPL) sites in the West Chicago area contaminated by a Kerr-McGee facility. This site is located in DuPage County, Illinois, and covers approximately 1½ miles of Kress Creek and about 2 miles of the West Branch of the DuPage River. The creek and river sediments at the site are contaminated with radioactive wastes which originated from a nearby facility, originally operated by the Lindsay Light and Chemical Company, but subsequently operated by the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation and known as the Kerr-McGee Rare Earths Facility. The facility, which operated from 1931 until its closure in 1973, extracted radioactive thorium and other radioactive and non-radioactive elements from monazite and other ores, and manufactured

Links:



gaslight mantles, mesothorium, and hydrofluoric acid. The Kerr-McGee Kress Creek/West Branch of DuPage River site became contaminated when surface runoff and discharges from the facility which were contaminated with radioactive thorium wastes were carried by a storm sewer into nearby Kress Creek, and from there downstream to the West Branch of the DuPage River. The highest contamination levels in the sediments are located near the storm sewer outfall and contaminant levels generally decrease with distance downstream. Approximately 20,000 people live within 3 miles of the site. Drinking water in the area is obtained from municipal or private wells, and is not expected to be impacted by the site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL Listing History: Proposed Date: 10/15/84
Final Date: 02/11/91

Threats and Contaminants

Sediments in Kress Creek and the West Branch of the DuPage River contain radioactive wastes. People who come into direct contact with or accidentally ingest contaminated sediments may suffer adverse health effects. In addition, wildlife in and around the creek and river may be harmed by radiation.

Cleanup Progress

USEPA is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site. A cleanup decision has not yet been made, and cleanup actions have not yet begun. A Record of Decision (ROD) is scheduled for fiscal year 2003. In accordance with a private agreement signed between Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation [the potentially responsible party (PRP) at this site] and the city of West Chicago, USEPA anticipates that Kerr-McGee may submit a voluntary cleanup proposal for this site. If such a plan is submitted, USEPA will evaluate it to see whether it is acceptable and consistent with the National Contingency Plan (NCP). If acceptable, cleanup at the site could begin as early as the fall of 2002.

Contacts

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